



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
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News Release

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St. Paul officers honored for efforts against street gang

MINNEAPOLIS— The St. Paul Police Department prides itself on ridding the city's neighborhoods of street gangs, and last year made an impact on one of the most violent gangs in Minnesota. Two of the department's officers were recognized for their role by the United States Attorney's Office.

Officer Troy Greene and Sgt. Kevin Moore were presented today with the eighth annual U.S. Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Recognition Award at the U.S. Courthouse in Minneapolis.

"Both of these men have extensive experience working drug and gang cases, and it is that expertise, as well as their tireless dedication that led, in large part, to the recent disruption of the Latin Kings street gang," said U.S. Attorney Rachel K. Paulose. "In the end, 34 of the most violent members of the Latin Kings gang were charged with federal crimes, making the case the largest single case in the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted in 2006."

Greene, a 13-year veteran, was named Minnesota Peace Officer of the Year in 2006 by the Minnesota Police Officers Association. Moore has been in law enforcement for 28 years, and was named the department's Officer of the Year in 1999.

"I would like to thank Officer Greene and Sgt. Moore for their commitment and determination," said St. Paul Police Chief John Harrington. "The people of St. Paul, along with the rest of the state, should be proud and thankful for the work done by these two fine law enforcement officers. Our communities are safer because of their efforts."

According to the FBI, the Latin Kings operate in 34 states, with an estimated national membership of between 25,000 and 50,000. The gang's primary source of income is drug trafficking, and gang members are known to be violent toward rival gangs, correctional officers and those within their own ranks who defy orders.

The gang is responsible for many violent crimes throughout the state, and its top two focuses are importing methamphetamine and dealing in firearms.

The U.S. Attorney's Office began working with local, state and federal investigators in 2004

in an effort to disrupt the gang's leadership. During an 18-month period, law enforcement developed federal cases against dozens of gang leaders.

In February of 2006, a federal grand jury returned a secret indictment against 26 gang members, charging them with numerous drug and gun crimes. That following March, more than 350 federal, state and local law enforcement officers simultaneously executed eight federal search warrants and 27 arrest warrants throughout the Twin Cities. The "take down," which was led by the St. Paul Police Department, resulted in 25 arrests.

Information from the March arrests resulted in additional indictments being filed, and 34 gang members were charged with federal crimes. All of them have pled guilty, and 18 have been sentenced. The remaining defendants are expected to be sentenced within the next several months.

The gang's primary location was St. Paul's West Side neighborhood, and according to Harrington, the crime rate in that neighborhood has dropped by 50 percent.

During the investigation, Greene arranged the controlled buys of drugs and oversaw much of the operation. Moore developed the search warrants and interviewed many of the offenders.

The U.S. Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Award is presented annually to a state, federal or local law enforcement agent or officer who has worked on federal cases. In addition, the recipients are recognized for their significant contributions to the enhancement of state and federal cooperation in law enforcement.

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